

A Sober VINDICATION

OF THE
Reverend DR. and the Harmless BOARD.

Lately Glew'd together in a

Profane Pasquill,

AND

Turn'd out in that undecent Familiarity into the Street,
and expos'd to the *Merciless Hootings*, and Popish Jibes
of *Tantivy Coffee-Houses*, and *Tory Clubs*; together with
an *Apology* for the truly *Worthy Patron* of *Wit* and
Criticism F. S.

Dear Protestant Reader,

IN this degenerate Age, when all manner of Profaneness, Atheism, nay, *Hobbism* it self prevails, it is no wonder that so Reverend a Vindicator of the Reformation, and the Rights of Princes, who all that know him, or have ever conversed with him, may be easily satisfied did never read *Hobbs*; and upon occasion, scorns to make use of any Arguments of his, or any like them. It is no wonder, I say, that a Person *thus Qualified* in his *Parts*, and *Eminent* in his *Vertues* (not to mention his *Gratitude* to his Late Countryman and Patron, the D. of L. for that is known even beyond the *Orcades*) should be obnoxious to the Scandalous Pens of the Enemies of that Reformation, which it is feared will never be a *Through Reformation*, till he arrive at his Blessed Ends, and suffer *Martyrdom* for what he has done towards it.

But to do him what Justice we can, as well as the poor Board, that is base-ly abused, with him: It is well known by all its Neighbours, the worthy Inhabitants of *Kent Street*, that the Board *is not dead yet*, but as much alive and sensible of *Popish Persecutions* as ever: And as for its being born at *Barn-Elms*, it is well known too, that it was *never born at all*; but grew up after the manner of other Trees, *As marry did it*. And whosoever says, that it was a Dresser-Board in the Kitchen of *Sheriff B---l*, I must beg leave to tell him, he knows as little what belongs to *Sh. B---l*. as *Sh. B---l*. knows what belongs to a Kitchen.

And whereas in the Second Paragraph the Author is pleased to term him a *Reverend Scot*, I desire he should explain himself, whether he meant a *National* or *Personal* Reflection: If a *National*, we have nothing to say to him, let him look to it; but if a *Personal*; and that thereby he means his late Apostolical Visitation to the E. of R. It is well known he was so far from disturbing him, that he was never admitted to the Sick-Bed of that Noble Peer, but for his Diversion; and never left him, but in a cheerful and merry Disposition of mind, in spite of the macerated Condition of his Body *as many other Doctors* (though of another faculty (then about him) can, if they please, testify. Nor is the silly Reflection upon his Brother Dr. T. O. of more Moment: For that *Worthy Divine*, let his Enemies say what they will, never did swear through an
Inch

Inch Board, though indeed he did once testifie through a *Key-hole*; and to speak the Truth, if a man may not have leave given him to *Swear*, where he may steal Leave to *Peep*, he had as good never Swear at all.

In short, they have both deserved well of the Nation; and it is hoped in due time, that (notwithstanding the Malice of *Tory Libells*, and Popishly affected Pamphlets) they may both come to be rewarded according to the *Excellency of their Merits*.

Thus we have done with the Second Paragraph: We shall now come to the Third, and thence to Conclusion, where can any one imagine that the Doctor should do so ridiculous an Action, as to *kiss a senseless hard Board*, or to *sit down* without Cushion upon it? No; the Dr. is so good a Naturalist, as well as a Divine, that he loves and knows, both where to kiss and sit softer: That he was indeed with the Board were unjust to deny: for who could imagine that a poor Plank should send its Groans through the whole City for a Moneth together, and not reach the Ears of so *Charitable a Drum*? Who knew but the Board might make a farther Discovery of the *Plot*? And if Evidence for that Service were to be pump'd out of a Board, Dr. B—— knew as well how to put the poor Log in a way of Deposition, as any body. But to accuse the Board of so much ill Manners, as to answer the kind Questions of the Dr. Negatively, is as ill natured as it is false, and shews the Rancor of the *Tory-Author's Heart*. No, the Board was an *Assenting Board*, though some may please to break their Jest, and say, the Dr. is inclining to be a *Dissenting Dr.* But,

Vitiis nemo sine nascitur optimus ille

Qui minimis urgetur.

As says the Heathen Poet: And a Christian Gentleman of Wit and Pleasure clad in Blew and Yellow, a merry man, and one that loves Custard, being sitting at the Conference, for want of Dr. H--- to undeceive the World, the Questions and Answers were these;

Dr. *Was Dear Lady Spouses Honor spotted before Second Matrimony.*

Board. Ummmm-- Verily Yea.

Dr. *Then all my Fears are true.*

Board. Tooooooooo-- True.

Dr. *Whether does the World believe me Fool or Knave?*

Board. Booooooooooth.

Dr. *What shall I do then to be thought Wise or Honest?*

Board. Beware of Printing, and for Preaching Ummmm--Mum.

Dr. *Which is the better Church-man, the Author of Julian the Apostate, or self?*

Board. Trrrrrrrrrrrim-Tram.

Upon these words Company coming in, the Physician who took care of the Boards Health, finding it convenient to apply some Burning by a Red Hot Iron, interrupted the Discourse; upon which the Dr. calling him *Hobbist* and *Attheist*, as he deserved, in great Indignation left the Booth; and at his going off, the Trumpet of the Show Sounded his Retreat.

All that now remains, is a word or two in Vindication of my very good Friend and Patron F. Sh--- who justly is incens'd to see his Name annexed to so reflecting a Paper, who all the World knows, *never spoke Ill of any man in his Life*; and had he not known how to bring better Company together than a Dr. and an Elm Board, he had been perhaps as *obscure* now, as the wretch who dares not own the putting this Affront upon him: And had he not had more Wit too, than to write such saltless Papers, he had never had *Criticism* dedicated to him, by one who thinks convenient to be nameless at present, but is, and will be upon all Occasion his very humble, &c.